

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12

M-03 SY-10 EB-11 RSR-01 AF-10 /126 W

----- 028940

R 241603 Z APR 73 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1822

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4754

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US XF IS

SUBJECT: USG ANTI- FEDAYEEN EFFORTS

REF: AMMAN 2196

1. WHILE WE CANNOT SPEAK FOR ISRAELI INTERESTS, WE CONCUR THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO US INTERESTS HERE AND PROBABLY IN ARAB WORLD NOT RPT NOT TO PROVIDE FURTHER GRIST FOR PROPAGANDA MILLS GRINDING OUT " BIG LIE" ACCUSATIONS. TO THIS END, IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF THERE COULD BE MORATORIUM ON OFFICIAL PUBLIC STATEMENTS OR ARTICLES CONCERNING USG ANTI- FEDAYEEN OR ANTI-TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. FOR EXAMPLE, WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE RE CIA JUST PRIOR TO BEIRUT RAID WAS CITED AS EVIDENCE OF CIA INVOLVEMENT.

2. BIG LIE IS STILL BEING PUSHED BY SOME PAPERS HERE, AS WELL AS BY VARIOUS PALESTINE RADIO STATIONS IN OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES. INDEPENDENT WEEKLY AS SAYAAD, FOR EXAMPLE, CLAIMED APR 18 THAT FEDAYEEN HAVE PROOF EMBASSY BEIRUT SERVED AS ARSENAL AND " BARRACKS" FOR ISRAELI AND CIA " ELEMENTS" PARTICIPATING IN APR 10 RAID AND THAT THEY ENTERED AND LEFT LEBANON VIA SPECIAL DIPLOMATIC FACILITIES ENJOYED BY USG AT BEIRUT AIRPORT. COMMUNIST WEEKLY AL AKHBAR (APR 21) AND LEFTIST, PRO- FEDAYEEN

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DAILY AL MUHARRIR (APR 24) CONTINUE PLAY UP SAME THEME, ALLEGING THAT IDF RAID WAS MERELY DIVERSION CIA ASSASSINATIONS OF 3 FEDAYEEN LEADERS, THAT US ENGINEERED APR 14 TAPLINE SABOTAGE INCIDENT TO EMBROIL FEDAYEEN WITH GOL, AND THAT " DIRTY AMERICANS" ARE HATCHING MORE SCHEMES TO LIQUIDATE FEDAYEEN PRESENCE IN LEBANON AS STEP TOWARD IMPOSING " CAPITULATORY" ME SETTLEMENT.

3. WE HAVE SPOKEN ON APR 24 TO DIRECTOR GENERAL MINISTRY INFORMATION ABOUT PAPERS CITED ABOVE. HE TELLS US THAT AS SOON AS NEW GOL GOVT FORMED AND POLITICAL TENSIONS HAVE CALMED STILL FURTHER, HE WILL SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE WITHIN LIMITS OF PRESS FREEDOM WHICH LEBANON HAS LONG ENJOYED AND WITH WHICH GOL IS STUCK DESPITE ITS DESIRE REDUCE ATTACKS DIRECTED AGAINST IT AND OTHER GOVTS. (FOR EXPLANATION GOL AND PRESS FREEDOM SEE BEIRUT A-62 OFMAR 3, 1972).
HOUGHTON

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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